

WHO MADE THE FIRST AMERICAN FLAG?

Although no one knows for certain who created the first American flag, legends say that Congressman Francis Hopkinson designed Old Glory, while a Philadelphia seamstress named Betsy Ross made the first American flag.

As the story goes, in May, 1776, three members of a secret committee from the Continental Army visited Betsy. Those representatives, which included George Washington, requested that she sew the first flag. Having attended the same church, Betsy and General Washington knew each other well.

According to the tale, on this lovely spring day General Washington showed her a rough design of the flag that included a six point star. Betsy, an expert with scissors, took the men into her sewing room and, with a single snip, cut a five point star. Impressed by her skill, the committee entrusted Betsy to finish the important project. Betsy finished the flag in late May or early June 1776.

On June 14, 1777, in order to recognize the official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act. "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen

stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in blue field, representing a new Constellation."



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**I
PLEDGE
ALLEGIANCE
TO
THE
FLAG**



A Guide to Understanding our Pledge



COMMENTARY ON THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY RED SKELTON

A schoolboy in Vincennes, Indiana, one of legendary comic Red Skelton's teachers explained the words and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to his class.

Later in 1969, Skelton wrote down and eventually recorded his recollection of this lecture. His definitions allow our pledge to be easily understood by Americans of all ages.

I- *Me; an individual; a committee of one.*

PLEDGE - *Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.*

ALLEGIANCE - *My love and my devotion.*

TO THE FLAG - *Our standard; Old Glory; a symbol of Freedom; wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, Freedom is everybody's job.*

UNITED - *That means that we have all come together.*



STATES - *Individual communities that have united into forty-eight great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country.*

AND TO THE REPUBLIC -

Republic--a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

FOR WHICH IT STANDS

ONE NATION UNDER GOD - *One Nation--meaning, so blessed by God.*

INDIVISIBLE - *Incapable of being divided.*

WITH LIBERTY - *Which is Freedom; the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.*

AND JUSTICE - *The principle, or qualities, of dealing fairly with others.*

FOR ALL - *For All--which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.*




DID YOU KNOW...

Each color in our flag stands for an American principle. The blue stands for justice, the white stands for purity, and the red stands for courage.

The United States flag has 13 stripes which represent each of the original 13 colonies. Each of the 50 white stars represents one of the 50 U.S. states.

HISTORY OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



 On September 8, 1892, the Boston based "The Youth's Companion" magazine published a few words for students to repeat on Columbus Day. Written by Francis Bellamy, the words read, "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands- one nation indivisible-with liberty and justice for all."

After being reprinted on thousands of leaflets, these words were mailed to public schools across the United States. On October 12, 1892, more than 12 million children first recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

At the first National Flag Conference in Washington D.C., on June 14, 1923, a change was made. For clarity, the words "the Flag of the United States" replaced "my flag."

It was not until 1942 that Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance. One year later, in June 1943, the Supreme Court ruled that school children could not be forced to recite it. In June 1954 an amendment was made to add the words "under God."